

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 9 and 14 are independent. Claims 1-15 stand rejected. In this Response, Applicants amend the title of the application. No amendments are made to the claims; however, a claim listing is provided herein for the Examiner's convenience. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Objection of the Specification

The Examiner objects to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend the title herein as suggested by the Examiner at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment addresses the Examiner's concerns.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0044042 to Inoue et al. (hereafter "Inoue") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0129475 to Enjoji et al. (hereafter "Enjoji") and U.S. Patent No. 5,230,966 to Voss (hereafter "Voss"). Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-15 for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1 recites, among other things:

a coolant flow field including:

two or more inlet buffers separate from each other connected to said coolant supply passage, at least one inlet buffer disposed on a first side of said coolant supply passage and at least another inlet buffer disposed on a second side of said coolant supply passage,

two or more outlet buffers separate from each other connected to said coolant discharge passage, at least one outlet buffer disposed on a first side of said coolant discharge passage and at least another outlet buffer disposed on a second side of said coolant discharge passage, and

straight flow grooves connected between said inlet buffers and said outlet buffers is provided between said first and second metal plates.

The Examiner recognizes that Inoue is silent regarding the use of inlet and outlet buffers

for any of the fluid passages (Office Action at page 4). Applicants respectfully submit that Voss is also silent with respect to inlet and outlet buffers, and indeed the Examiner does not suggest that Voss teaches inlet or outlet buffers. Instead, the Examiner relies on Enjoji for the above-quoted features of claim 1.

However, the Enjoji reference is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The instant application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-313242 filed on October 28, 2002, and Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-333742 filed on November 18, 2002. The Enjoji reference was filed in the United States on January 7, 2003. As such, the U.S. filing date of the Enjoji reference is after the foreign priority dates of the instant application.

In order to perfect Applicants' claim to foreign priority, Applicants submit herewith certified English translations of the above-referenced Japanese Patent Applications.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited Inoue and Voss references fail to disclose each and every element of claim 1, and that the cited Enjoji reference is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and therefore include each and every element of claim 1.

Claim 9 recites that *said coolant flow field includes two or more inlet buffers separate from each other connected to said coolant supply passage through inlet connection passages, and two or more outlet buffers separate from each other connected to said coolant discharge passage through outlet connection passages*. Applicants respectfully submit that the Inoue and Voss references, alone or in any reasonable combination, do not disclose or suggest at least the inlet and outlet buffers of claim 9, and that the cited Enjoji reference is unavailable as prior art. Claims 10-13 depend from claim 9, and therefore include each and every element of claim 9.

Claim 14 recites a coolant flow field including inlet and outlet buffers, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 15 depends from claim 14, and therefore includes each and every element of claim 14.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claims 1-15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the pending application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a teleconference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Any fee due is authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. TOW-108USRCE from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. If a requisite petition does not accompany this response, the undersigned hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely.

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Respectfully submitted,

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